Fake passport racket in the country

†2426. SHRIMATISAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the work of making fake passports in the country is going on at a very fast pace;

(b) if so, whether some persons have been found involved in this work recently;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken any action against them; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (d)The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Service tax on embassies

2427. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDMC propose to impose service tax on embassies in Delhi; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes. The NDMC has proposed a Service Charge on Diplomatic Missions in Delhi.

(b)The proposal is under consideration.

Welfare Schemes for salt workers

2428. DR. A. K. PATEL: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of workers in the salt sector, State-wise, particularly in Gujarat;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.